

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a system to perform a search, the method comprising:

receiving information from a plurality of search providers directed to query language features supported by the respective search providers;

transmitting the information received from the search providers to a user interface;

receiving user input through the user interface to define a query for execution by the search providers;

parsing the query to define a single common parse tree that is transformable by each of the respective search providers based on the query language features supported by each of the respective search providers;

passing the single common parse tree to the search providers to enable execution of the query by the search providers;

receiving results for the executed query from the search providers; and

displaying the results.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the information received from the search providers is at least one member of a group comprising data property names, query comparison operators, data object properties, operands for each of the comparison operators, syntactic data types, data value types, or localization information about display strings.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein passing the single common parse tree to the search providers comprises passing the parse tree by value to one of the search providers.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising electronically transferring at least a portion of the query to one or more other users.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising copying at least a portion of the query to a repository for use by other users.

7. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a graphical user interface having input fields for defining a query;
means for interrogating and receiving information indicating query language features supported by a plurality of search providers;
means for transmitting the information received to the user interface;
means for receiving user input through the user interface to define a query for execution by the search providers;
means for parsing the query to define a single common parse tree that is transformable by each of the search providers based on the query language features supported by each of the respective search providers;
means for passing the single common parse tree to the search providers to enable execution of the query by the search providers;
means for receiving results for the executed query from the search providers; and
means for displaying the results.

8-45 (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the information received from the providers is at least one member of a group comprising data property names, query comparison operators, data object properties, operands for each of the comparison operators, syntactic data types, data value types, or localization information about display strings.

47. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

receiving information from a plurality of search providers directed to query language features supported by the respective search providers;
transmitting the information received from the search providers to a user interface;
receiving user input through the user interface to define a query for execution by the search providers;
parsing the query to define a single common parse tree that is transformable by each of the respective search providers based on the query language features supported by each of the respective search providers;
passing the single common parse tree to the search providers to enable execution of the query by the search providers;
receiving results for the executed query from the search providers; and
displaying the results.

48. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 47, wherein the information received from the search providers is at least one member of a group comprising data property names, query comparison operators, data object properties, operands for each of the comparison operators, syntactic data types, data value types, or localization information about display strings.

49. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 47, wherein passing the single common parse tree to the search providers comprises passing the parse tree by value to one of the search providers.

50. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 47, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of electronically transferring at least a portion of the query to one or more other users.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of copying at least a portion of the query to a repository for use by other users.

52. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a system to perform a search, the method comprising:

receiving information from a plurality of search providers directed to different query language features supported by each of the plurality of search providers;

providing a user interface comprising a single common set of query input fields generated based on the different query language features supported by each of the plurality of search providers;

receiving user input through the user interface to define a query for execution by the search providers;

parsing the query to define at least one parse tree that is transformable by at least one of the search providers;

passing the at least one parse tree to at least one of the search providers to enable execution of the query by at least one of the search providers;

receiving results for the executed query from at least one of the search providers; and displaying the results.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the information received from the search providers is at least one member of a group comprising data property names, query comparison operators, data object properties, operands for each of the comparison operators, syntactic data types, data value types, or localization information about display strings.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein passing the at least one parse tree to at least one of the search providers comprises passing the parse tree by value to one of the search providers.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, further comprising electronically transferring at least a portion of the query to one or more other users.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, further comprising copying at least a portion of the query to a repository for use by other users.

57. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

- a graphical user interface comprising a single common set of query input fields generated based on different query language features supported by each of a plurality of search providers;
- means for receiving information from the plurality of search providers directed to the different query language features supported by each of the search providers;
- means for providing the user interface based on the information received from the search providers;
- means for receiving user input through the user interface to define a query for execution by the search providers;
- means for parsing the query to define at least one parse tree that is transformable by at least one of the search providers;
- means for passing the at least one parse tree to at least one of the search providers to enable execution of the query by at least one of the search providers;
- means for receiving results for the executed query from at least one of the search providers; and
- means for displaying the results.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the information received from the search providers is at least one member of a group comprising data property names, query comparison operators, data object properties, operands for each of the comparison operators, syntactic data types, data value types, or localization information about display strings.

59. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

- receiving information from a plurality of search providers directed to different query language features supported by each of the plurality of search providers;

providing a user interface comprising a single common set of query input fields generated based on the different query language features supported by each of the plurality of search providers;

receiving user input through the user interface to define a query for execution by the search providers;

parsing the query to define at least one parse tree that is transformable by at least one of the search providers;

passing the at least one parse tree to at least one of the search providers to enable execution of the query by at least one of the search providers;

receiving results for the executed query from at least one of the search providers; and displaying the results.

60. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 59, wherein the information received from the search providers is at least one member of a group comprising data property names, query comparison operators, data object properties, operands for each of the comparison operators, syntactic data types, data value types, or localization information about display strings.

61. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 59, wherein passing the at least one parse tree to at least one of the search providers comprises passing the parse tree by value to one of the search providers.

62. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 59, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of electronically transferring at least a portion of the query to one or more other users.

63. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 59, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of copying at least a portion of the query to a repository for use by other users.